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horsemen, tireless, cruel, invincible, before whom all the world cowered in horror. Covering incredible distances, with an extraordinary aptitude for military organization, savagely ruthless in their cruelty, they crushed everything in their path, in a conquest that was as a scourge for every place they entered. The vivid description of the battles, particularly those fought by the great J inghis-Khan, with a picturing worthy of an epic, makes the book intensely interesting, aside from its historical value. It is a book which can be read with pleasure or used profitably as an aid in arriving at a full understanding of the historical development of Eastern Europe and Asia.

An elaborate index, an unusually detailed topical table of contents and a good map still further enhance the worth of a valuable book.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Ireland, Alleyne. *The Province of Burma.* Two volumes. Pp. xxxvii, 1023. Price, \$25.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The publication of these two volumes on Burma marks the beginning of a series of studies on Colonial administration in the Far East. The thoroughness with which the work is done and the detailed character of the information given show that the series will become a veritable treasure house for those studying the governmental problems of tropical dependencies.

Mr. Ireland has been engaged in the preparation of these studies since 1901, when he was appointed Colonial Commissioner of the University of Chicago. He has been aided by the foreign and colonial offices of the various home countries, which have placed at his disposal complete files of the various official documents. In addition the leading secondary works have been drawn upon to supply material not covered in the official publications and to give variant points of view.

Twelve volumes are planned, of which ten are to be devoted to a presentation of the facts in the different dependencies with comparatively little critical comment. The last two volumes, which promise to make the most important of the contributions to the discussion of colonial problems are to be given over to a comparative study of the administrative systems and of the results achieved.

In order to make the comparison of the greatest use a uniform method of treatment is adopted in discussing each colony. The subjects treated indicate the thoroughness with which the field is covered. They are, 1, how the dependency acquired its present status, 2, character of the relation to the home government, 3, form of government in force, 4, general character of the territory and people, 5, general administrative mechanism, 6, departmental mechanism, 7, method of selecting government officials, 8, system of legislation, 9, methods of finance, 10, land tenure, 11, local government, 12, internal and external trade, 13, results obtained through administrative activity. The method of investigation proposed—the digesting of the literature both official and secondary—reduces the possibility of *ex parte* opinions to a minimum. The careful selection of extended quotations from the best authors places

the fruit of an immense amount of research within easy reach of the student. Many of the authorities quoted are indeed beyond the reach of even those who have access to our best libraries. Excellent bibliographies accompany each chapter, large appendices give reprints of the more important documents and a large map is included. Mr. Ireland's volumes should give a decided impetus to the study of colonial problems—a branch of politics still too much neglected in the United States. A study of the excellent results achieved by others, and especially by the English in Burma, will cause many an American to doubt whether after all a greater adoption of the methods of government proved by European experience might not be an advantage to our own tropical colonies.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Lavissee, Ernest. *Histoire de France depuis les Origines jusqu' à la Révolution.* Tome Septième, II., Louis XIV: La Religion, Les Lettres et les Arts, La Guerre. (1643-1685.) Pp. 415. Paris: Hachette et Cie.

This monumental history of France under the direction of M. Lavissee is already familiar to readers of THE ANNALS both through the original and through notices of the different volumes as they have appeared. The work on the medieval period was completed some time ago, and that on the modern field is now well under way. As the time for the appearance of the latter half of the history approached some uneasiness was felt by scholars lest the high standard of merit of the earlier portion might not be maintained. For M. Lavissee, as is well-known, is essentially a medievalist. That the volumes on the modern period have dispelled any anxiety on this score is now generally accepted. Indeed, the two volumes, especially the earlier one, on Louis XIV's reign in 1685, may be said to attain to the best standard set by the work. Both are by M. Lavissee himself, and they reflect not only painstaking research but the author's deep interest in the period whose broad, clear cut characteristics are peculiarly congenial to his type of mind. That M. Lavissee's interest in the reign of the great king lies mainly in the field of the political and international history of the period, is evident from the various articles and studies he has published from time to time, and to this fact is doubtless due a less sympathetic treatment of the psychological and institutional topics which form the subject matter of most of the present volume.

Under the subject of religion, he takes up in the first part of the work (Bk. VI.) the development of the religious history of the period: *Jansenism, Gallicanism and Protestantism*. Book VII. is devoted to the intellectual movement under the suggestive title *Le Gouvernement de l'Intelligence*, in four divisions, *L'Administration Intellectuelle, Les Lettres, Les Arts, et Les Sciences*. Book VIII deals with *La Guerre*, or as it is better expressed in the body of the work, *La Politique Extérieure*. By way of conclusion there is a fourth division (Book IV), *La Fin d'une Période*, which contains an admirable survey of the political history from 1661 to 1685, by way of introduction to an equally masterly sketch of the court and private life of the Grand Monarch.